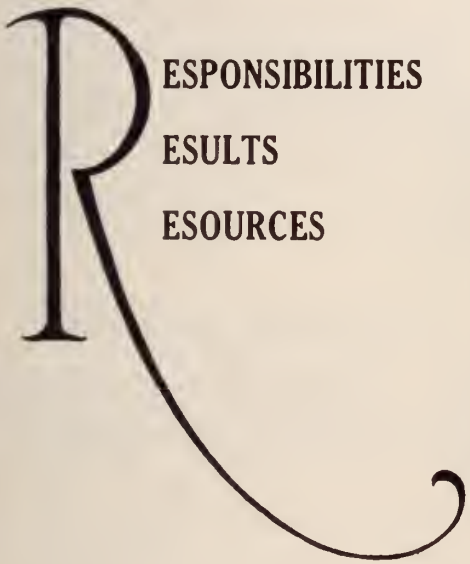
The Three Rs



In my travels over the country a great many ministers have asked me for a brief statement of the origin of the work among the colored people of the Southland, and also for a statement of the work as it is now being carried on by our Presbyterian Church. The following brief statement is submitted with the prayerful hope that it may be useful to those who speak in the interest of this great cause.

JOHN M. GASTON

April, 1925
Pittsburgh, Pa.

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OFFICERS OF THE DIVISION

REV. JOHN M. GASTON, D.D.,
Secretary and Assistant Treasurer
REV. S. J. FISHER, D.D., Assistant Secretary
MRS. W. T. LARIMER, Assistant Secretary

An Historical Sketch

THE Presbyterian Church, U. S. A., began missionary work among the Negroes of the South fully a year before the close of the Civil War. As early as 1864 two committees were at work under the direction of the General Assembly (O. S.) one with headquarters at Indianapolis, the other at Philadelphia. In May 1865 the General Assembly at its meeting in Pittsburgh united these under the title, "The General Assembly's Committee on Freedmen." By order of this same Assembly the committee met and was organized on June 22, 1865 in the lecture room of the First Church, Pittsburgh. In 1868, however, the Freedmen's Department of the Presbyterian Committee of Home Missions (N. S.) began a similar work with headquarters in New York. At the reunion of the two branches of the church, the old and the new school, this department, which had been in existence only two years, and the department in Pittsburgh were consolidated, and a new committee was appointed. This committee was organized by direction of the reunited General Assembly in Pittsburgh on June 10, 1870, and continued without change of plan or organization for twelve years. Problems arising, however, from the ownership of property and from the handling of bequests indicated that some change was necessary; consequently in 1882 at Springfield, Illinois, the General Assembly sanctioned a change and on September 16 of the same year the committee obtained a charter and became a corporate body, The Board of Missions for Freedmen of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.

HELP FROM THE WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETIES

In 1884 the Assembly recommended that the Women's Executive Committee of Home Missions, afterwards the Woman's Board of Home Missions, permit societies under its care to contribute, if they so wished, to the cause of the Freedmen. When, the following May, 1885, $3,010.58 were reported as contributed by these societies, the General Assembly adopted unanimously the following resolution:

> "That in view of the success which has already attended the organization of a Women's Department for Freedmen, under the Women's Executive Committee of Home Missions, and of the pressing demand for labor within the sphere marked out for this department it be affectionately urged upon all the Women's Home Missionary Societies of our Church to give this work a place in their sympathies, their prayers and their benefactions."

This was the beginning of the Women's Department of the Freedmen's Board. While the action of the Assembly only recommended that the Women's Societies be permitted to contribute according to their pleasure to the Freedmen's work, these societies have for thirty years very generously encouraged the efforts of the Board. Their contributions and their interest in the work for the Negro have grown steadily from year to year. The money received from the women's missionary societies goes in the main to the support of teachers and the maintenance of school work.

In May, 1923, the General Assembly in session at Indianapolis, Indiana, adopted the report of the Committee on Reorganization and Consolidation of the Boards. By the terms of the consolidation, the Board of Missions for Freedmen became a holding corporation, the

actual work previously carried on by that Board becoming a part of the work of the Board of National Missions under the Division of Missions for Colored People. The headquarters of this Division at 507-511 Bessemer Building, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Responsibilities

THE FIELD

PRESENT NEGRO POPULATION

Based on the United States Census of 1920

Alabama	900,652
Arkansas	472,220
Delaware	30,335
Dist. Columbia	109,966
Florida	329,487
Georgia	1,206,365
Kentucky	235,938
Louisiana	700,257
Mississippi	935,184
Maryland	244,479
Missouri	178,241
North Carolina	763,407
South Carolina	864,719
Oklahoma	149,408
Tennessee	451,758
Texas	741,694
Virginia	690,017
West Virginia	86,345
Total in S. States	8,912,000
Total in N. States	1,472,000

In connection with the study of distribution it will be interesting to note the education of the White and the Negro child of school age.

ANNUAL EXPENDITURES BY STATES FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

	Whites	Negroes
Alabama	$15.80	$ 3.00
Arkansas	13.15	6.85
Delaware	20.00	12.00
Florida	30.00	5.75
Georgia	16.31	2.83
Kentucky	10.29	9.46
Louisiana	25.37	3.49
Maryland	22.09	10.52
Mississippi	18.12	3.91
North Carolina	15.37	5.83
Missouri	22.24	19.40
Oklahoma	31.59	14.05
South Carolina	19.33	2.06
Tennessee	18.05	10.43
Texas	19.01	13.16
Virginia	20.55	5.59

The Board of National Missions is responsible for its share of work among the nine million Negroes of the South and the one-and-a-half million of the Northern States.

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THE TASK

In the North the Presbyterian Church oversees 31 new churches and missions for Negroes which have been organized by the Board since 1914.

In the South this Division educates preachers and teachers, maintains ministers in their work and teachers in their schools, repairs churches, manses, and builds school houses, seminaries, academies, looks after the condition of buildings, and orders all repairs and extensions, appoints instructors, provides all necessary utensils and furnishings for the boarding department, manages the various institutions of learning, receives monthly financial statements for all schools, and audits all bills.

Results

PAST ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Out of confusion, ignorance, and poverty, there has arisen a system of educational and evangelistic work that commands the attention and demands the support of the entire Church. Schools, academies, seminaries, and one large university, have gathered within their walls young men and young women to the number of more than 500,000 who are brought under religious influence and are being trained in the ways of the Presbyterian Church. Congregations have been gathered, and churches have been organized until now the Division has under its watch and care 530 churches and missions containing 39,932 members, 136 day schools with 18,765 pupils. Church buildings have been repaired and property valued at $553,650.00 secured for the use of churches. School property is estimated as worth about $3,000,000.00. Funds permanently invested for the use of the work amount to $968,934.26.

* * *

PRESENT EFFORT

1. In Respect to Churches

There are now four colored synods covering the work under the care of the Board,—Atlantic, Catawba, Canadian, and East Tennessee. Atlantic Synod has five presbyteries, viz; Atlantic, Fairfield, and McClelland, which are in South Carolina; Hodge and Knox in Georgia. Knox Presbytery takes in also several churches that are in Florida. Catawba Synod has four presbyteries, viz; Cape Fear, Catawba, and Yadkin, which are in North Carolina and Southern Virginia in the southern part of Virginia. Canadian Synod has three presbyteries, viz; Kiamichi and Rendall

which are in Oklahoma, and White River in Arkansas. East Tennessee has three presbyteries, viz; Birmingham, which takes in Alabama, Mississippi, and some churches in Tennessee, and Le Vere and Rogersville, both in Tennessee. Rogersville takes in also two churches in western North Carolina.

The one additional colored presbytery, Lincoln, in the Synod of Kentucky, brings the total of colored presbyteries to sixteen. With the exception of five white men in charge severally of four girls' seminaries and one co-educational boarding school, all the ministers in these sixteen presbyteries are colored. In all, 251 Presbyterian ministers are working among Negroes. Each year the churches receive on an average 3,500 members on confession of faith, an increase of about 9 per cent.

According to the annual reports of the ministers working under the Division of Missions for Colored People, the people on the field gave this year for church work including that for buildings, repairs, contingent expenses and ministerial support $244,114.51. In addition the churches under the Board contributed $14,697.08 for benevolences.

2. In Respect to Schools

The Presbyterian church maintains 137 schools for Negroes classified as follows:

(a) Two schools for men: Johnson C. Smith University at Charlotte, N. C., and Harbison Agricultural college, at Irmo, S. C. The professors in these schools are all colored men.

(b) Five seminaries for girls only: Scotia at Concord, N. C.; Ingleside at Burkeville, Va.; Mary Holmes at West Point, Miss.; Barber Memorial at Anniston, Ala.; and Mary Allen at Crockett, Texas.

The first four of these seminaries are presided over by white ministers, and most of the teachers are white. Mary Allen alone has a colored president, and colored faculty members. The total enrollment at these five schools is more than one thousand.

(c) Twenty-one co-educational boarding schools as follows:
Andrew Robertson Institute, Aiken, S. C.
Albion Academy, Franklinton, N. C.
Alice Lee Elliott Memorial, Valliant, Okla.
Arkadelphia Academy, Arkadelphia, Ark.
Boggs Academy, Keysville, Ga.
Bowling Green Academy, Bowling Green, Ky.
Brainerd Institute, Chester, S. C.
Coulter Memorial Academy, Cheraw, S. C.
Cotton Plant Academy, Cotton Plant, Ark
Emerson Industrial Institute, Blackville, S. C.
Fee Memorial Institute, Nicholasville, Ky.
Gillespie Normal, Cordele, Ga.
Haines Industrial, Augusta, Ga.
Hot Springs School, Hot Springs, Ark.
Kendall Institute, Sumter, S. C.
Mary Potter Memorial, Oxford, N. C.
Monticello Academy, Monticello, Ark.
Redstone Academy, Lumberton, N. C.
Richard Allen Institute, Pine Bluff, Ark.
Selden Institute, Brunswick, Ga.
Swift Memorial College, Rogersville, Tenn.

Of these Brainerd Institute, alone, has a white president.

(d) Other schools to the number of 109, classified as institutes, academies, and church schools. These are all in charge of colored ministers and teachers.

In these schools 18,765 children are enrolled. The Bible and the Shorter

Catechism are everywhere required studies. Only Christian teachers are employed; usually they are Presbyterians.

In all the larger schools and in as many of the smaller ones as the budget will allow industrial training is offered. At Johnson C. Smith instruction is given in carpentry, masonry, printing, plumbing, shoemaking, tailoring, etc. At Harbison the boys are taught intensive farming; in Scotia, Ingleside, Mary Allen, Mary Holmes, and Barber Memorial, the girls are trained in cooking, sewing, and general housekeeping. Many of the co-educational schools have farms attached where the boys may do practical farming. The crops go to the support of the school.

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IN RESPECT TO COMMUNITY SERVICE

For the purpose of assisting worthy colored families one thousand acres of land have been purchased at Keysville, Georgia, in the neighborhood of Boggs Academy, and four thousand acres at Irmo, S. C., near Harbison College. This land is divided into small farms of from ten to forty acres each. These farms are then sold to respectable Negro men of families, Presbyterians preferred, at fair prices and on easy terms. To assist purchasers in building houses, buying tools and seed, cash advances are made to these Negro men with the understanding that the money is to be repaid with a fair rate of interest out of the annual savings of the farms. Capable superintendents are employed to direct the purchasers in their work so that the farmers may in the end own their own land. Thus every effort is made to build communities sound both morally and industrially. Many of these tenants are helpful in the churches. Their children attend the schools. Their farms and homes are attractive. In every way the families are a credit to their communities.

Resources

IN FUNDS

When one compares the work done with the money expended one soon realizes that few mission fields cost so little as the field of colored work, and that in few places does a little go so far. The average aid granted a minister is about $500 a year. The average salary of a colored teacher is about $35 a month. It should be at least $50. Terms run from six to eight months.

Sunday Schools that give $25 a year or more may receive a share certificate in one of the Negro schools. Lincoln's Day Programs will be furnished without charge to all Sunday Schools which will make an offering for the colored work. Young People's Societies are urged to set aside one evening each year to the consideration of this work and to make an offering toward it.

Scholarships in Johnson C. Smith University, the Seminaries, and co-educational schools are $100 a year. A half scholarship costs $50.

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IN SERVICE

The five schools where there are white faculties offer excellent opportunity for young people to engage in the work of the Kingdom. The transformations both in the character and the appearance of the pupils is a constant source of joy and inspiration to the teachers.

* * *

IN PRAYER

For the work as carried on through this agency special reliance is put upon the prayers of the hosts of God's people, upon the loving interest and co-operation of the thousands of Presbyterians in the faithful and devoted service of the 726 missionaries, ministers, and teachers.

Issued by the Division of Missions for Colored People of the

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